CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method comprising:

2   determining a first system Advanced Configuration and Power Interface

3   Specification (ACPI) state; and

4   switching a serial Advanced Technology Attachment (SATA) device based upon

5   the ACPI state.

1   2.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the ACPI S state is selected from the

2   group consisting of S0, S1, S2, S3, S4, and S5.

1   3.   The method according to claim 1, wherein the switching is between two devices.

1   4.   The method according to claim 3, wherein the two devices are the first system

2   and a subsystem.

1   5.   The method according to claim 4, wherein:

2   if the ACPI state is S0, S1, or S2 then the SATA is switched to the first system;

3   and

4   if the ACPI state is S3, S4, or S5 then the SATA is switched to the subsystem.

1   6.   The method according to claim 4, wherein:

2   if the ACPI state is S0, or S1 then the SATA is switched to the first system; and

3   if the ACPI state is S2, S3, S4, or S5 then the SATA is switched to the

4   subsystem.

1   7.   A machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions, which when

2   executed by a processor, causes said processor to perform the following:

3   determine a first system Advanced Configuration and Power Interface

4   Specification (ACPI) state; and

5   switch a serial Advanced Technology Attachment (SATA) based upon the ACPI

6   state.

1   8.   The machine-readable medium according to claim 7, wherein switching the

2   SATA is between a plurality of devices.

1   9.   A system comprising:

2   a serial Advanced Technology Attachment (SATA) device connected to a

3   switch;

4   a first system to connect to the SATA device through the switch; and

5   a subsystem to connect to the SATA device through the switch;

1   10.   The system of claim 9, wherein the switch connecting the SATA device does not

2   connect both the first system and the subsystem to the SATA device simultaneously.

1   11.   The system of claim 9, wherein the switch operation is controlled by signals

2   from the first system.

1   12.   An apparatus comprising:

2   means for determining a first system Advanced Configuration and Power

3   Interface Specification (ACPI) state; and

4   means for switching a serial Advanced Technology Attachment (SATA) based

5   upon the ACPI state.

1   13.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein means for switching further comprises a

2   mutually exclusive switching means to a plurality of destinations.

1   14.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the ACPI state is selected from the group

2   consisting of S0, S1, S2, S3, S4, and S5.

1   15.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the means for switching the SATA device

2   determined whether to switch based upon signals from the first system.